

## CALABASH SANITARY DISTRICT PROPOSED

## New Option Is Offered For Sewer Service To 'Old Calabash'

BY ERIC CARLSON

Residents of Calabash were asked to consider a new method of providing downtown sewer service last week—one that would avoid participation in a regional sewer authority without scrapping nearly two years of costly engineering work.

A crowd of about 120 people, nearly all from the Carolina Shores area of District II, attended a public forum Nov. 10 to discuss three proposals for collecting and treating sewage from District I.

The group heard a presentation from Billy Burnett, owner of the Carolina Blythe utility company, which currently provides water and sewer service to Carolina Shores. He wants the town to purchase the system for \$4.5 million and expand it to serve the downtown area.

Also discussed was the town's ongoing plan to join Sunset Beach in building a regional sewerage system to serve both towns. As currently crafted, the proposal calls for the towns to fund the project with about \$10 million in state and federal grants and loans through a joint South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority.

Many residents of Carolina Shores have voiced opposition to the idea of an authority, fearing that it could grow beyond the control of the people it is intended to serve.

Which is why a third proposal has surfaced calling for the creation of a Calabash Sanitary District.

Under the new plan outlined by Commissioner Jon Sanborn Wednesday night, the sanitary district would leave the Town of

*"...If (Burnett) has a business that's generating that much money, why would he want to sell it?"*

—Accountant Johnny Britt

Calabash out of the sewer business and financially obligate only those who receive its services. It would also allow the joint sewer system to go forward as planned without committing the town's tax base to any loan agreements signed by the regional authority.

"It (the sewer district) would be eligible for the same grant and loan funding. It would not slow down or require us to re-do any of the existing engineering documents. And it can be done quickly," Sanborn told the group.

Under state law, a sewer district can be formed by gathering petitions from 51 percent of the residents or landowners in a designated area, such as downtown Calabash. If approved by the Brunswick County Commissioners, they would set a public hearing on the proposal.

The county board also would choose three to five people to sit on an initial sanitary district board with staggered terms of office. Elections would be held to select new members of the district board, which would oversee the construction and operation of the sewer system and set rates for its customers.

In response to a question from the audience, Sanborn said that if a sanitary district were formed, "there

would be no reason for the town of Calabash to be a member of the authority. The authority could go forward with its plans and work with the sanitary district."

Sanborn said that the new plan also would allow the downtown area to get sewer service more quickly than with the purchase of Carolina Blythe.

During the discussion of that option, Engineer Joseph Hill told the gathering that he had inspected the Carolina Blythe system and found the water system, the sewage treatment plant and the sewage collection lines to be "in good shape."

Accountant Johnny Britt said he had reviewed data provided by Burnett which show that the town could purchase his utility company for \$4.5 million, spend another \$1.2 million to extend sewer service to the downtown area, pay back a 30-year loan at 5.25 percent and make a profit while charging lower rates.

"The figures show cash flows in excess of debt service, but we have no way of verifying his estimate of expenses," Britt said. "There don't seem to be any additional operating or maintenance expenses with the \$1.2 million expansion and we have some questions about that."

"We also wonder, if he has a busi-

ness that's generating that much money, why would he want to sell it?" said Britt.

Burnett said Carolina Blythe has "outgrown being a private system" and could be run more efficiently as a public utility. He said the town could charge lower rates and still make a profit because it would not be subject to the same taxes and regulations as a private company.

"If we don't sell the utility, we're going to go up with the rates," Burnett said. "If you don't buy it, it's going to be for sale to someone else. It might not be in your best interest who buys it."

Jim Billups of Powell Associates, engineers for the proposed joint sewer project, said the town's financial feasibility study for the project has been reviewed and approved by the state, paving the way for approval of the grant and loan package.

Asked why Calabash should embark on such a large-scale system, Billups said that "because of the economy of scale," a bigger customer base will allow a regional sewer system to charge lower rates than a small one.

He also cautioned that if the town withdraws its current funding applications, it would take "at least a year and perhaps longer" to re-qualify for grants and loans to expand the Carolina Blythe system.

Sanborn asked the audience to consider the comments made at the meeting, to read the informational handouts provided and to make their opinions known to members of the town board.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON  
BILLY BURNETT, owner of Carolina Blythe, tells a group of about 120 Calabash residents last week that the \$4.5 million purchase of his company would be the best of three options being considered as a means of sewerage the town's restaurant district.

## Emergencies?

Career changes. Medical costs. Accidents. Build a nest egg for life's emergencies with insurance protection. Cash for emergencies—One of the

MODERN WOODMEN SOLUTIONS

*Bringing Families Together*

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

A FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY  
HOME OFFICE • ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

LIFE • ANNUITIES • IRA'S • FRATERNAL PROGRAMS



Glenda J. Barefoot, FIC  
P.O. Box 2963,  
Shallotte, NC 28459  
910-754-5454

ZEN'S GARDEN  
Chinese Restaurant

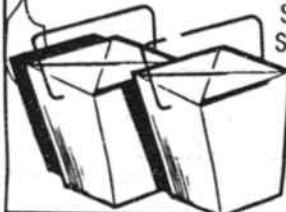
LUNCH BUFFET  
Monday-Friday  
11-2:30 PM

FAMILY NIGHT  
BUFFET  
Monday-Saturday

NEW HOURS:  
Monday-Thursday 11 AM-3, 4:30-8:30 PM  
Friday 11 AM-3, 4:30-9 PM  
Saturday 4:30-9 PM  
Sunday 11 AM-3 PM

For take-out call  
754-5280

East Gate Square, Holden  
Beach Road • Shallotte



## Dairy Queen



WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF "DAIRY QUEEN"

**SPECIAL  
FREE CHRISTMAS GLASS  
with Misty Float**  
(limited supply)

Serving real ice cream and fresh fruit topping since 1950.

Shallotte Plaza 5701 E. Oak Island Dr. 1002 North 3rd St.  
Shallotte • 754-2545 Long Beach • 278-5371 Wilmington • 763-5053



DR. EDWARD F. ECKERT, JR.

and  
DR. BRIAN C. HARSHA

of  
Coastal Carolina Oral  
and Maxillofacial Surgery  
Associates, P.A.

Our Little River office is located at

303 Highway 90, Nixon's Crossroads  
Little River, SC 29566, 803-249-7810

Wednesday, 9 AM-12:30 PM  
Thursday, 1:30 PM-4:30 PM

For an appointment,  
call our Myrtle Beach office  
803-448-1621

We specialize in wisdom teeth removal, implants, T.M.J.  
Surgery, Orthognathic Surgery and Cosmetic Facial Surgery.

## Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Sponsored By

The South Brunswick Islands Optimist Club

Pre-sale orders taken now  
till Nov. 24. Order now for...

**FREE DELIVERY**  
WITHIN 15-MILE RADIUS  
CALL 842-6237 or 842-2431

or visit our lot located at  
**Shallotte Plaza**

across from Kirby's Sizzling Steakhouse  
(formerly Workman's Christmas tree lot)

Lot opens Thanksgiving Day 5 pm

**Largest selection in town!**

**BUY A TREE AND HELP THE YOUTH**



Get Two Dollars Off The  
Purchase Of Any  
Christmas Tree  
At the Optimist  
Tree Lot  
With This Coupon  
**\$2.00 OFF**  
Limit One Coupon Per Tree

A Wide Range Of Services  
... By A Team Of Professionals.

From allergy evaluation, to correcting sinus and sleep disorders, the medical team at Dr. Mark A. Lizak's can diagnose and treat even the slightest condition. As an adult, you might be tempted to treat an allergic or sinus condition, as a burden you will just have to live with. But it doesn't have to be that way! A team of trained professionals, at the offices of Dr. Mark A. Lizak, has the many years of experience, the medical expertise, plus with the latest in state-of-the-art equipment, we're able to quickly pinpoint a probable cause and reason for your condition and can take proper remedial action. For example, your snoring problem, might possibly be solved by the removal of a breathing obstruction. Or a hearing loss could be ear wax build-up. A few simple tests could provide all the answers, because...



There are some things you just don't need to live with!

**Mark A. Lizak, MD**

Board Certified Specialist: EAR, NOSE & THROAT  
Conveniently located in the Doctor's Office Complex  
at the Brunswick Hospital, Supply, North Carolina.

For Appointments Call: 754-2920

GET HOOKED  
ON GREAT  
SEAFOOD...  
ALL WEEKEND LONG!

YES, YOU CAN STILL ENJOY  
OUR CALABASH SEAFOOD  
BUFFET EVERY THURSDAY,  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, &  
SUNDAY!

FOR A LIMITED TIME, GET  
**FRESH ROASTED**

**OYSTERS ON BUFFET!**

COME GET 'EM FRESH  
AND HOT, ALONG WITH  
FRESH FLOUNDER,  
SHRIMP, DEVEILED  
CRAB, CLAM STRIPS,  
SHRIMP CREOLE, BBQ  
CHICKEN, HUSHPUP-  
PIES, FRENCH FRIES,  
ONION RINGS,  
ETC...ETC...  
WITH SALAD BAR AND  
DESSERT!

**ONLY \$9.95 REG. PRICE**

CHILDREN'S PRICES  
STARTING AT 99¢

PRESENT THIS COUPON AND RECEIVE

**\$1.00 OFF**

EACH ADULT BUFFET IN YOUR PARTY!  
VALID WHEN SEATED BEFORE 6:00 PM!  
EXPIRES 1/14

Serving From 4:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
Thursday • Friday • Saturday • Sunday



**Beach Cafe**

On the causeway to Holden Beach • 842-5515

Join Us For  
Thanksgiving  
Buffet!